

TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend p. 7, lines 5-6 of the specification to read as follows:

--Figure 5 is a protein alignment of yeast (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*) and *Arabidopsis thaliana* MSH3 protein. Homologous amino acid residues are highlighted.--

Please amend p. 7, lines 15-16 of the specification to read as follows:

--Figure 10 is a protein alignment of yeast (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*) and *Arabidopsis thaliana* MSH6 protein. Homologous amino acid residues are highlighted.--